cities are to arise, stopping for a few days, picking out the best site, laying down the broad outlines of the future city, and passing on, leaving the details to be filled in by architects and engineers who remain,' or that 'Stalin himself sometimes comes down to the Moscow goods sidings to help' ;[13] whereas the late Herbert Smith, President of the Miners' Federation, and Sir Walter Citrine, both of whom visited the U.S.S.R., showed an irritating disinclination to accept such absurdities on trust, and insisted on investigating actual conditions of life.

The cost of a tour in the U.S.S.R., though moderate, was beyond the means of most manual workers, so that those who availed themselves of the exceedingly competent Intourist organisation were predominantly income-tax payers. Their delight in all they saw and were told, and the expression they gave to their delight, constitute unquestionably one of the wonders of the age. There were earnest advocates of the humane killing of cattle who looked up at the massive headquarters of the Ogpu with tears of gratitude in their eyes, earnest advocates of proportional representation who eagerly assented when the necessity for a Dictatorship of the Proletariat was explained to them, earnest clergymen who walked reverently through anti-God museums and reverently turned over the pages of atheistic literature, earnest pacifists who watched delightedly tanks rattle across the Red Square and bombing planes darken the sky, earnest town-planning specialists who stood outside over-crowded, ramshackle tenements and muttered: *If only we had something like this in England!' The almost

unbelievable credulity of these mostly university-educated tourists astonished even Soviet officials used to handling foreign visitors, and, expressed in large numbers of books and articles in newspapers and periodicals, especially in the *Moscow Daily News,* an English newspaper published in Moscow, should provide some future Gibbon with material after his heart.

The climax came, perhaps, with the visit to the U.S.S.R. of Mr. Bernard Shaw, Lady Astor and Lord Lothian, which pro-

[13] *A Scientist Among the Soviets.*